Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

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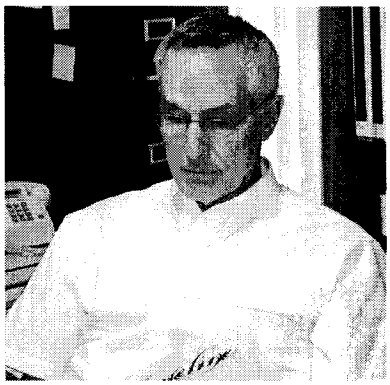
Nabb Center Welcomes Wilson

The Nabb Center welcomes Richard Wilson, Ph.D., back to the Eastern Shore to serve as the project coordinator of the Teaching American History Grant. Recently awarded to the Wicomico County Board of Education, this three-year grant is a partnership program with Salisbury University's Department of History and the Nabb Research Center. Through a series of workshops and presentations, history faculty from SU will work with Wicomico County teachers to help formulate a new model for teaching history by relating national events to local history. This exciting project will have a long-lasting, positive impact on both teaching and scholarship in the Delmarva region.



Dr. Richard Wilson

Settlers of the Eastern Shore Evenlight at Clifton

Following a most successful and inspired evening last year, the second major fundraising event for the Nabb Research Center will revisit Clifton (circa 1800), Revell's Neck, Somerset County, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22. The evening at Clifton, a singularly outstanding example of Eastern Shore architecture, is hosted by owners Bill and Kathy Niskanen. The elegant evening will be one of good company, fabulous food, potent potables (open bar and Bert Thornton's mint juleps) and a silent auction. Docents will be available for house and grounds tours. This announcement of the event provides an early opportunity to secure reservations for an evening of fun and history that will benefit the Nabb Research Center. Tickets are $60 per person. Be on the lookout for your invitation.

Discover Where You Really Live

Michael Dixon will present a free lecture on behalf of the Maryland Humanities Council titled "If This Place Could Talk: Researching the History of an Old House" 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, in the Great Hall of Salisbury University's Holloway Hall.

Just as our families have rich histories, our old houses and the land on which they are located have a story to tell as well. Knowing where and how to look, you may find these important clues to the past. Dixon will demonstrate how to uncover the mysterious history that exists in our homes, our fields and our forests. He will reveal the best ways to get organized in order to begin the research process, how to find available records and primary documents, and how to interpret those findings. He will provide suggestions on how to create a concrete history out of what may just appear to be "an old house." The lecture is free and open to the public. For additional information call 410-543-6312.

Washington Hotel, Princess Anne, Md.

Photos courtesy of Les Callette Collection

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Spotlight on Collections: Historical April Fools

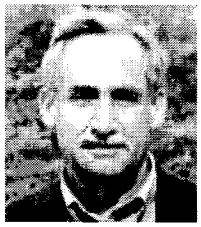
(Discovered in Liber E.I. *foolio* 241)

April fools may not have always been around, but foolish people certainly have. In circa 1738 three men were given an interesting sentence for crimes in England:

> At the General Quarter sessions of the peace held by Adjournment at Manchester in the County palatine of Lancaster on Thursday the twenty eighth day of Aprill in the tenth year of King George seconds Reign Whereas John Oldham of Salford in the County of Lancaster ealenderman[1] John Taylor of Little Keaton in the said County Labourer and Robert Pennington of aspull in the said County Weaver have at this Session been Convicted of ffelony this Court doth order that they shall be forth sent and transported to some of his majesties Colonies and transportations in america for the space of seven years ... death and casualties of the sea excepted.

What a punishment to be sent to the Eastern Shore! These men most likely never returned to England. It can be assumed that they married, had children and that their descendants are probably still present on the Shore; after all there are many Taylors and Oldhams around today. It is very exciting when we can trace our "convictional" ties back to England even if they may have behaved like April fools.

[1]An "ealenderman" or alderman was a noble of high civil rank.



Lecture Series with Peter Kolchin

Peter Kolchin, the Henry Clay Reed Professor of History at the University of Delaware, came to Salisbury University on March 4 as a member of the Distinguished Lectureship Program of the Organization of American Historians. He spoke on his current research, which is a comparative study of Russia and the United States with regard to the theories and actions revolving around emancipation. This research will soon take the form of a sequel to his 1987 book *Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom.* Many sponsors made this event possible: the Nabb Research Center, SU Office of Cultural Affairs and Museum Programs, and the Les Callette Lecture Series. These events are always free and open to the public. Stay tuned to the Nabb Center for more upcoming events.

April Is National Volunteer Month

Thank you to all of our dedicated Nabb Center volunteers! We appreciate everything you do!

Reminder

If you did not receive the March *Shoreline*, our biannual magazine edition, then it might be time for you to renew your membership with us.